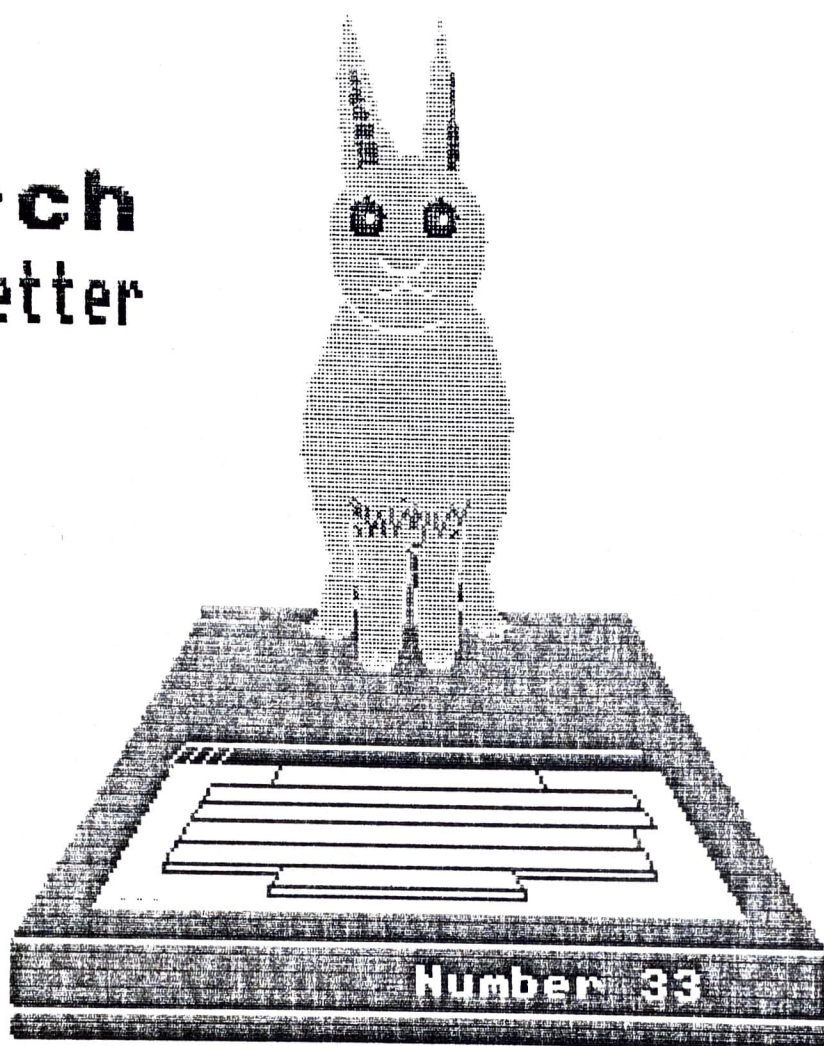


# March Newsletter



## DIARY

The next few meetings will be held on:

19 March  
2 April  
16 April  
7 May

All meetings are still held in the Shakespeare Hotel on Gibraltar Street.

If you have any enquiries about club matters, meeting times, venues, etc, please ring the Secretary, Mike Cattell, on Dronfield 417413 after 6:30pm.

## NEW MEMBERS

The Club always welcomes new members, so don't forget, if you know anyone who has a Beeb, and who is not already a member, try and recruit him or her into the club.

## 1770 DISC CONTROLLER USERS

If you have a DFS using the 1770 disc controller chip, please make yourself known to John Morell at one of our meetings. There are difficulties in running some programs with this chip and a get-together of members using it could be beneficial to all.

## VAN - THE ELECTRONIC DELIVERY SYSTEM

The word VAN is being increasingly banded about in computer and communication circles. It stands for Value Added Network, and represents the combination of the computer and the communication network. In the UK, British Telecom (BT) and Mercury are the only organisations that are allowed to operate voice lines, what we normally think of as telephone lines. However, other companies may be able to offer a service to the public if they rent lines from one of these organisations and 'add value' to them by connecting a computer into the network and allowing users to access it. If you satisfy their definition of a VAN, then the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) will license you to run it.

A VAN is only allowed to carry data, and not voice traffic, although the distinction gets a little blurred as BT installs its new digital telephone exchanges, which carry voice and data in digital form.

VANs are starting to effect our information industry, as a recent Micro Live programme on BBC2 showed (broadcast on 14 February 1986). They investigated three examples:

#### 1) The Stock Exchange

The Stock Exchange are introducing their own VAN called SEAQ (Stock Exchange Automated Quotation system). This will distribute information to brokers, but they will still have to phone the Exchange to buy or sell shares. However, Reuters with their Instinet system, allow certain companies in the UK to deal directly on-line to the New York Stock Exchange. The Micro Live researchers felt that sooner or later, London would have to follow suit.

#### 2) The Law

An American database called Lexis carries details of all current English case law. This can be searched by English lawyers to turn up any 'precedent', which is the basis of so many legal decisions in this country.

It is unfortunate that English lawyers have to dial into the US to get details of English cases, but a British legal database, Eurolex, which also contained details of Scottish law, got into financial difficulties and was bought by Lexis' UK agent. They then promptly closed it down.

#### 3) The Press

Eddy Shah's new daily paper Today is composed on a mainframe computer in Victoria, London, and then is transmitted electronically to printing presses in Manchester, Birmingham and Heathrow.

Although the paper is then printed and distributed in the normal way, there is no reason in principle why it could not be sent to a terminal or microcomputer in the reader's home. However, before this becomes feasible, it will probably be necessary to develop a very low cost printer for home use!

Dave Brown

(Based on Micro Live Programme Notes broadcast on Teletext)

#### COVER

This month's cover was designed by Chris Bramwell.

#### NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

We are always happy to receive articles for the Newsletter. If you have an idea for an article, please talk to Dave Brown or Pete Frith.

#### FOR SALE

40 track single sided LVL disc drive in good condition. This is a half-height drive fitted in a double case. £65 from Morris Smith, Chesterfield 569208.

Assorted cassette software (originals) for sale: E.g. Speech, Repton 2, etc.

Also for sale, Triumph Adler SE1010 electronic typewriter. Has RS232 interface and lead to BBC for use as a daisywheel printer. £200 O.N.O. For either of the above two, see Pete Frith at meetings, or phone 389165 after 6pm.